each twisted pair of insulated conductors of the plurality of twisted pairs of insulated conductors, being disposed within a corresponding groove of the dielectric pair separator;

a jacket assembly enclosing the plurality of the twisted pairs of insulated conductors and the dielectric pair separator; and

wherein the plurality of grooves do not form completely enclosed channels.

26. (Amended) A data communications cable comprising:

a plurality of twisted pairs of insulated conductors;

a dielectric pair separator consisting of a dielectric layer and a conductive layer formed with a plurality of folds to provide a plurality of grooves extending along a longitudinal length of the configurable pair separator;

a jacket assembly enclosing the plurality of twisted pairs of insulated conductors and the dielectric pair separator;

each twisted pair of insulated conductors of the plurality of twisted pairs of insulated conductors being disposed within a corresponding groove of the dielectric pair separator;

a binder enclosing the plurality of twisted pairs of insulated conductors and the dielectric pair separator, the binder having a conductive layer that faces each of the plurality of twisted pairs of insulated conductors so that the binder in combination with the dielectric pair separator provides a plurality of enclosed channels extending along a longitudinal length of the data communications cable, each enclosed channel providing crosstalk isolation between a corresponding twisted pair of insulated conductors enclosed within the channel and a remainder of the plurality of twisted pairs of insulated conductors, and providing reduced susceptibility of the twisted pair of insulated conductors to electromagnetic interference; and

wherein the plurality of grooves do not form completely enclosed channels.

~~29~~ 26. (Amended) The data communications cable according to claim ~~27~~ 25 wherein the binder and the dielectric pair separator are made of an aluminum/mylar tape, an aluminum layer of the tape being the conductive layer facing the plurality of twisted pairs of insulated conductors.

Please add the following new claims:

27 ~~30.~~ (New) A data communications cable comprising:

a first twisted pair of insulated conductors;

a second twisted pair of insulated conductors;

a configurable dielectric pair separator that separates the first and second twisted pairs of conductors, the configurable dielectric pair separator being substantially flat;

a jacket enclosing the first and second twisted pairs of insulated conductors and the dielectric pair separator; and

wherein the configurable dielectric pair separator, the first twisted pair of insulated conductors and the second twisted pair of insulated conductors are twisted about a common central axis to form a twisted pair cable; and wherein the configurable dielectric pair separator is arranged within the jacket to form at least two grooves.

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~~31.~~ (New) The data communications cable as claimed in claim ~~30~~, wherein the configurable dielectric pair separator is arranged to provide a sufficient spacing between the first twisted pair of insulated conductors and the second twisted pair of insulated conductors so as to provide a desired crosstalk isolation between the first twisted pair of insulated conductors and the second twisted pair of insulated conductors.

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~~32.~~ (New) The data communications cable as claimed in claim ~~30~~, wherein the at least two grooves do not form completely enclosed channels.

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~~33.~~ (New) The data communications cable as claimed in claim ~~30~~, wherein the configurable dielectric pair separator comprises a foamed polymer tape.

31

~~34.~~ (New) A data communications cable comprising:

a plurality of twisted pairs of insulated conductors;

a configurable dielectric pair separator disposed between at least two of the plurality of twisted pairs of insulated conductors, the configurable dielectric pair separator including a substantially flat dielectric tape formed of a foamed polymer;

a jacket enclosing the plurality of twisted pairs of insulated conductors and the configurable dielectric pair separator; and

wherein the plurality of twisted pairs of insulated conductors and the configurable dielectric pair separator are twisted about a common axis to form a twisted pair cable.

32 ~~35~~ (New) The data communications cable as claimed in claim ~~34~~ 31, wherein the configurable dielectric pair separator is arranged to provide a sufficient spacing between the at least two twisted pairs of insulated conductors so as to provide a desired crosstalk isolation between the at least two twisted pairs of insulated conductors.

33 ~~36~~ (New) The data communications cable as claimed in claim ~~34~~ 31, wherein the configurable dielectric pair separator is arranged within the jacket to provide at least two grooves, at least one twisted pair of conductors being disposed within each of the at least two grooves.